complaints regarding charging of heavy interest rates and lavying of high service charges by foreign banks on credit card accounts. RBI has further reported that a credit card holder is expected to keep adequate funds in his account to meet the bill when received by the bank from the member establishment. In view of this and also in view of the fact that the customer is expected to be aware of the terms and conditions before enroling as a credit card holder, RBI does not interfere in such matters.

Loans to farmers under the Special Loan Account of NABARD

1167. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria adopted for sanction of loans to farmers for farm development work under the Special Loan Account which is operated by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development; and

(b) the number of farmers have been granted loans under this scheme in the State of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHR1 P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) In order to enable the Command Area Development Authority CADA/Land Development Corporations (LDCs) to take up on-farm development works on the holdings in the command areas of farmers ineligible to get institutional loans, National bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) constitutes a Special Loan Account (SLA). Funds to the extent of the estimated expenditure in respect of such ineligible farmers are earmarked for the SLA and are contributed to the extent of 37.5% each by the concerned State Governments and Central Government as special deposits and the balance 25% by NABARD out of its own resources.

The SLA is used to provide medium and long term loans by way of refinance assistance to financing institutions for providing loans to CADA/LDC to meet the expenditure on on-farm development work on the holding of farmers ineligible to get loan from institutional sources. The present rate of interest on loans from SLA is 9% p.a. Further the concerned' State Governments are required to give irrevocable guarantee to the financing banks as to the repayment of loans given by he bank to the CADA/LDC.

(b) The number of farmers who have been benefitted under Special Loan Account Scheme in Maharashtra, as reported by NABARD, during the last three years is indicated below:

1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1165	581	NIL

NABARD have further reported that information in respect of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh for the above three years is nil.

New structures at Lodhi, Janpath and Ranjcet Hotel Spots

1168. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the India Tourism Development Corporation has recently decided to pull down Lodhi, Janpath and Ranjeet hotels and build new structures on those spots;

(b) if so, whether any plan has since been made to invite the foreign firms to join ventures for designing and construction of these hotels; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS ANE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIKANTA JENA): (a) ITDC envisages the reconstruction of its hotel Lodhi, Janpath and Ranjeet in phases starting with Lodhi Hotel in the firs phase.

(b) and (c) Presently, no joint venture

is proposed with any foreign firm. However, ITDC has invited applications at a global level for design competition and selection of Architect.

फ्लाइट-809 के मार्ग तथा समय-अनुसूची में बार-बार परिवर्तन

1169. श्री राम देव भंडारी: क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

क्या दिल्ली-पटना मार्ग पर चल रही इंडियन एयरलाइन्स की फ्लाइट-809 के मार्ग तथा समय अनुसूची में बार-बार आकस्मिक परिवर्तन किए जाते हैं, जिसकी सूचना यात्रियों को हवाई अड्डे पर जाने अथवा जहाज में बैठने पर दी जाती है;

(ख) क्या इस प्रकार के आकस्मिक परिवर्तनों के कारण यात्रियों को होने वाली कठिनाइयों से सरकार अवगत है;

(ग) विगत एक वर्ष के दौरान, इस प्रकार के कितने आकस्मिक परिवर्तन किए गए हैं; और

(घ) सरकार इस प्रथा को रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री सी॰एम॰ इब्राहीम) जी, नहीं।

(ख) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) दिल्ली-पटना सेक्टर पर नवम्बर, 1995 से अक्तूबर, 1996 तक विलम्बित कुल 24.03% उड़ानों में से 17.40% खराब मौसम, हवाई अड्डा प्रतिबंधों, परिणामी तथा अन्य कारणों से तथा मात्र 6.63% उड़ानें में इंडियन एयरलाइंस के कार्यक्षेत्र के अधीन कारणों से विलम्ब हुआ था।

(घ) सभी विलम्बों की सूक्ष्म रूप से जांच की जाती है जहां कहीं आवश्यक हो, उपचारात्मक कार्रवाई की जाती है।

उत्तर प्रदेश में डाक्टरों के बिना कार्य कर रहे स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र

1170. श्रीमती मालती शर्मा: क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) जुलाई, 1996 तक उत्तर प्रदेश में कितने स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र कोई भी डाक्टर न होने के कारण सुचारू रूप से कार्य नहीं कर पा रहे थे;

(ख) क्या सरकार उन स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों में डाक्टरों की नियुक्ति करने के संबंध में विचार कर रही है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में विलंब के क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) डाक्टरों को नियुक्ति कब तक कर दी जाएगी?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सलीम इकबाल शेरवानी): (क) दिसम्बर, 1995 तक उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार उत्तर प्रदेश में कार्य कर रहे कुल 3761 प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों में से 289 प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र बिना डाक्टरों के कार्य कर रहे थे।

(ख) से (घ) प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों में डाक्टरों की नियुक्ति और तैनाती राज्य सरकारों द्वारा की जाती है।

Officers found guilty of Irregular activities in Maintenance of ITC Accounts

1171. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers and former officers of Indian Tobacco Company who have been found guilty of irregular activities by the Income Tax authorities in the matter of maintenance of accounts of the Company;

(b) the penalty imposed upon these individuals and mode of recovering the penalty from these officials; and

(c) whether criminal proceedings have been lodged by Government against the individuals concerned[0]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The isssue of Income-tax evasion by the Indian Tobacco Company, in the light of recent detection by different enforcement agencies, is being looked into by the Income-tax Department. The investigations are in progress. However so far no officers and former officers of this Company have been held guilty of irregular activities by the Income-tax authorities in the matter of maintenance of accounts of the Company.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do